

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, the wording in Claims 3-9 and 11 has also been amended to present the claims in better form. New Claims 3-9 and 11 are presented for consideration.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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(ATTACHMENT TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DATED MAY 29, 2001)

3. (Amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterised in that the superabsorbent has a degree of neutralisation such that the pH in the absorbent body of the article when wetted will lie in the range of 3.5-4.9, preferably 4.1-4.7.

4. (Amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 2 [or 3], characterised in that the laminate bonding locations (4) include punctiform bonds, linear bonds, rectangular bonds or circular bonds.

5. (Amended) An absorbent article according to [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1, characterised in that the top sheet (2) has through-penetrating holes within the bonding locations (4).

6. (Amended) An absorbent article according to [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1, characterised in that the top sheet (2) is comprised of a nonwoven material.

7. (Amended) An absorbent article according to [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1, characterised in that the top sheet (2) is comprised of a carded, thermobonded nonwoven material.

8. (Amended) An absorbent article according to [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1, characterised in that the liquid transfer sheet (3) is a fibre wadding sheet having a thickness of 0.5-4 mm.

9. (Amended) An absorbent article according to [any one of the preceding Claims] Claim 1, characterised in that the smallest distance x between two mutually adjacent groups (5) of bonding locations (4) is at least twice the size of the greatest distance y between two mutually adjacent bonding locations (4) in respective groups (5).

11. (Amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 9 [or 10], characterised in that x is 2-6mm and y is 0.5-1mm.